

What's New in the MPDC

NOVEMBER 26, 2001

RESERVE CORPS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Many individuals in DC want to contribute to the public safety effort, without having to commit to a full-time career in policing. For these people, the Police Reserve Corps offers a unique opportunity to serve. The Reserve Corps is a volunteer program providing qualified, highly-trained civilians with the opportunity to assist the MPDC in carrying out its policing responsibilities. The Reserve Corps is made up of men and women from all walks of life, from bank presidents to special police officers. Prospective recruits must be 21 years of age or older, have a high school education or equivalent, live in the Washington metropolitan area, and have no criminal record, excluding minor traffic violations. Each prospective recruit must also undergo a thorough background investigation, pass a physical examination, and attend the Police Academy for training. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Reserve Corps, call the program's office at 202-727-4313 or click on:

For individuals interested in a career in policing, the MPDC continues to hire qualified candidates, as the Department looks to increase its ranks by nearly 200 officers over the next two years. For complete career opportunity information, including a list of qualifications and a breakdown of the application process, please visit:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

THINK TRAFFIC SAFETY OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Traveling by car this holiday season? Make sure your vehicle is in good working order before you leave, and bring safety items – including blankets, coats, a flashlight, jumper cables and other emergency equipment – with you in case of a breakdown. AAA Mid-Atlantic offers other holiday travel tips at:

www.aaamidatlantic.com/press/articles.asp?id=355

With a higher percentage of travelers expected to drive this Thanksgiving weekend – and throughout the holiday season – the MPDC reminds DC motorists to slow down, buckle up, and not drink and drive. AAA estimates that a record 87 percent of travelers over Thanksgiving will choose to drive (as opposed to fly or take a train) – a trend that will likely continue through the December holidays. More vehicles on the road will, unfortunately, mean a greater likelihood of crashes and injuries. This past week, DC experienced its 60th traffic fatality of the year (up from 50 fatalities in all of 2000), caused by a speeding red-light runner in NE.

Whether you're driving in DC or across the country, officers are stepping up enforcement of seat belt and child safety seat laws, as part of the Operation ABC Mobilization – America Buckles-up Children. Drunken driving enforcement will also be increased throughout the holiday season. And automated speed and red-light running enforcement will be complemented by stepped-up laser and radar patrols. For more information about traffic safety in DC, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm

UPDATE ON PHOTO RADAR

Just three months into DC's photo radar speeding reduction program, the number of motorists driving at excessive speeds has declined sharply in many of the 60 enforcement zones targeted in the initial deployment. In 25 mph zones, for example, the average speed of vehicles has declined steadily, from 35.5 mph during the July "warning period" to 28.9 mph in October. The percentage of vehicles exceeding the threshold speed in these same zones has dropped from 27 percent in July to 22 percent in September and 23 percent in October. Approximately one-half of the automated speeding citations mailed to date have been sent to Maryland drivers, one-third to registered owners in DC, one-eighth to Virginians, and the remainder to motorists in other states. Since August, more than 75,000 speeding citations have been issued and more than 20,000 have been paid, resulting in nearly \$1.5 million in fines collected. Detailed information about the photo radar program, including the locations of enforcement zones, can be found at:

The MPDC has discovered that a small number of photo radar tickets have been issued in error to drivers going only a few miles per hour above the posted speed limit. This was the result of operator error, which has been addressed. In addition, a small number of photo radar and red-light camera tickets have been issued to motorists who inadvertently received duplicate tag numbers from the DMV. In all of these cases, the citations are being administratively voided and, where payments have been received, refunds are being initiated. For questions, call the Automated Enforcement Office at 202-756-5884 (photo radar) or 202-833-3511 (red-light cameras).

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING CRIME-FREE – AND TAX-FREE – IN DC

With the holiday shopping season kicking into high gear, the MPDC wants shoppers in DC to enjoy a crime-free experience. Taking some basic precautions can keep your hard-earned money or valuables from being stolen. For example, shoppers should avoid carrying large amounts of cash; instead, pay with a check or credit card whenever possible. And deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers by not overburdening yourself with packages, by carrying a purse close to your body, and putting your wallet in an inside coat or front-pants pocket. Learn more about these and other common-sense holiday shopping safety tips by visiting:

You can make your holiday shopping in DC tax-free as well. Mayor Williams recently signed legislation creating a Sales Tax Holiday from Friday, November 23 through Sunday, December 2. During this period, no DC sales tax will be assessed on qualifying items selling for \$100 or less. Complete information about the Sales Tax Holiday is available at:

cfo.dc.gov/services/tax/news/2001/november/11_16_01.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm#shopping

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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MPDC.DC.GOV